

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 17, 2008

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 8, 2008

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 23, 2008

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 9, 2008

SENATE BILL

No. 1643

**Introduced by Senator Torlakson
(Principal coauthor: Senator Alquist)**

February 22, 2008

An act to add Section 44262.1 to the Education Code, relating to teacher credentialing.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1643, as amended, Torlakson. Teacher credentialing: eminence teaching credential.

Existing law authorizes the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, upon the recommendation of the governing board of a school district, to issue an eminence credential to a person who has achieved eminence in a field of endeavor taught or service practiced in the public schools of California. The eminence credential authorizes teaching in the public schools in the subject or subject area or the performance of services in the public schools at the level approved by the commission, as designated on the credential. An eminence credential is issued initially for a 2-year period and may be renewed for a 3-year period by the commission upon the request of the governing board of the school district. Upon completion of the 3-year renewal period, the holder of an eminence credential is eligible, upon application, for a professional clear teaching credential.

This bill, in addition, would authorize a county board of education, upon the recommendation of a school district, to authorize a county superintendent of schools to issue an eminence credential to a person who has demonstrated subject matter competence through an examination, college degree, or work experience, and if the subject or service in which the person demonstrates eminence is one that the governing board wishes to have taught or practiced in the schools of the district. The decision to issue an eminence credential would be required to be based on a recommendation from the governing board of the school district, a statement of employment, and a verification of the eminence qualifications of the individual. The county board of education would be required to provide notice to the public of the individuals to whom it is considering issuing eminence credentials and would be authorized to charge the applicant a fee to recover costs incurred in processing an eminence credential application. *Applicants for an eminence teaching credential would be required to comply with specified requirements relating to demonstration of moral character, including, but not limited to, successfully completing a moral character review conducted by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing.* The eminence credential would authorize teaching in the public schools of the issuing in the authorizing county in the subject or subject area and at the level approved by the county superintendent of schools and would be issued initially for a 2-year period and renewable for a 3-year period. The holder of an eminence credential would be eligible to apply to the commission for a clear eminence teaching credential upon completion of the 3-year renewal period.

By increasing the duties of county boards of education, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 44262.1 is added to the Education Code,
2 to read:

1 44262.1. (a) Upon the recommendation of a school district, a
2 county board of education may authorize a county superintendent
3 of schools to issue an eminence credential to a person who has
4 demonstrated subject matter competence through an examination,
5 college degree, or work experience and if the subject matter in
6 which the person demonstrates eminence is one that the governing
7 board wishes to have taught in the schools of the district. This
8 credential shall authorize ~~teaching in the public schools in the~~ *the*
9 *credentialholder to teach in the public schools of the authorizing*
10 *county in the* subject or subject area and at the level approved by
11 the county superintendent of schools. Each credential issued shall
12 be issued initially for a two-year period and may be renewed by
13 the county superintendent of schools for a three-year period upon
14 the recommendation of the school district. Upon completion of
15 the three-year renewal period, the holder of an eminence credential
16 shall be eligible to apply to the commission for a clear eminence
17 teaching credential.

18 (b) When considering an application for an eminence credential,
19 the county board of education shall be guided by the following
20 definition of an eminent individual. “Eminent individual” means
21 a person who is recognized as eminent beyond the boundaries of
22 his or her community, has demonstrably advanced his or her field,
23 and has been acknowledged by his or her peers beyond the norm
24 for others in the specific endeavor.

25 (c) The requesting school district shall demonstrate how the
26 eminent individual will enrich the educational quality of the school
27 district and not how he or she will fill an employment need.

28 (d) A decision to issue an eminence credential shall be based
29 on a recommendation from the governing board of the school
30 district, a statement of proposed employment, and a verification
31 of the eminence qualifications of the individual as follows:

32 (1) The statement of employment in the district shall include
33 the proposed assignment of the credential applicant and a
34 certification of the intention of the district to employ the applicant
35 if granted an eminence credential.

36 (2) The verification of eminence qualifications of an applicant
37 for an eminence credential shall include:

38 (A) Recommendations from any of the following:

39 (i) Professional associations.

40 (ii) Former employers.

1 (iii) Professional colleagues.

2 (iv) Individuals or groups whose evaluations *or*
3 *recommendations* would support eminence.

4 (B) Documentation of achievement, which may include, but
5 need not be limited to, any of the following:

6 (i) Advanced degrees earned.

7 (ii) Distinguished employment.

8 (iii) Evidence of related study or experience.

9 (iv) Publications.

10 (v) Professional achievement.

11 (vi) Recognition attained for contributions to his or her field of
12 endeavor.

13 (3) The county board of education shall provide notice to the
14 public of the individuals to whom it is considering issuing
15 eminence credentials. Any association, group, or individual may
16 provide the county board of education with a written statement
17 regarding the qualifications of an individual under consideration
18 for an eminence credential.

19 (4) A county office of education may charge the applicant a fee
20 to recover, and not to exceed, costs incurred in processing eminence
21 credential applications.

22 (e) A county office of education may renew an eminence
23 credential for three years upon receipt of an application for renewal
24 with a written statement of support from the governing board of
25 the school district adopted in a public meeting.

26 (f) The commission may issue a clear eminence teaching
27 credential at the end of five years of possession of the eminence
28 credential pursuant to this section with a written statement of
29 support from the governing board of the school district adopted in
30 a public meeting and submission of an application and the
31 application fee prescribed in regulations.

32 (g) *Applicants for an eminence teaching credential issued*
33 *pursuant to this section shall comply with the requirements set*
34 *forth in Sections 44339, 44340, 44341, 44345, 44346, and 44346.1,*
35 *including, but not limited to, successfully completing a moral*
36 *character review conducted by the Commission on Teacher*
37 *Credentialing, and holding a valid certificate of clearance issued*
38 *by the commission while employed by a school district under this*
39 *section.*

1 SEC. 2. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to
2 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because
3 a local agency or school district has the authority to levy service
4 charges, fees, or assessments sufficient to pay for the program or
5 level of service mandated by this act, within the meaning of Section
6 17556 of the Government Code.

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